

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for network communication in an end user device comprising a plurality of network interfaces for communicating over a corresponding plurality of networks, the method comprising:
  - detecting a plurality of available networks;
  - selecting an optimal network from said plurality of available networks;
  - initiating data communication with a remote device over said optimal network via a first one of the plurality of network interfaces; and
  - when said data communication over said optimal network is terminated, continuing said data communication without interruption over another of said plurality of available networks via a second one of the plurality of network interfaces.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting said plurality of available networks is performed as part of a power-up sequence of the end user device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting said plurality of available networks is performed when a task related to network communication is initiated on the end user device.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting said plurality of available networks comprises searching for available networks in an order based on expected transfer rate.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting said plurality of available networks comprises searching for available networks based on a type of data to be communicated.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on a type of data to be communicated.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on an expected bit error rate for each of said plurality of available networks.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on an expected signal-to-noise ratio for each of said plurality of available networks.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on an expected number of intervening network entities between the end user device and said remote device for each of said plurality of available networks.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on an expected cost associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said optimal network comprises selecting said optimal network based on an anticipated power consumption associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
establishing a connection with said remote device over said another of said plurality of available networks via said second one of the plurality of network interfaces prior to said termination of said data communication over

said optimal network.

13. An end user device, comprising:

a plurality of network interfaces for communicating over a corresponding plurality of networks; and

a processor coupled to said plurality of network interfaces, said processor configured to detect a plurality of available networks, to select an optimal network from said plurality of available networks, and to initiate data communication with a remote device over said optimal network via a first one of said plurality of network interfaces;

wherein said processor is further configured to continue said data communication without interruption over another of said plurality of available networks via a second one of said plurality of network interfaces when said data communication over said optimal network is terminated.

14. The end user device of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of network interfaces comprises a wireless network interface.

15. The end user device of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of network interfaces comprises a wired network interface.

16. The end user device of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of network interfaces comprises a local area network interface.

17. The end user device of claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of network interface comprises a wide area network interface.

18. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to detect said plurality of available networks as part of a power-up sequence.

19. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to detect said plurality of available networks in response to initiation of a task related to network communication.

20. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to detect said plurality of available networks by searching for available networks in an order based on expected transfer rate.

21. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to detect said plurality of available networks by searching for available networks based on a type of data to be communicated.

22. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on a type of data to be communicated.

23. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on an expected bit error rate for each of said plurality of available networks.

24. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on an expected signal-to-noise ratio for each of said plurality of available networks.

25. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on an expected number of intervening network entities between the end user device and said remote device for each of said plurality of available networks.

26. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on an expected cost associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

27. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is configured to select said optimal network based on an anticipated power consumption associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

28. The end user device of claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to establish a connection with said remote device over said another of said plurality of available networks via said second one of said plurality of network interfaces prior to said termination of said data communication over said optimal network.

29. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a processor to perform network communication in an end user device comprising a plurality of network interfaces for communicating over a corresponding plurality of networks, said computer program logic comprising:

means for enabling the processor to detect a plurality of available networks;

means for enabling the processor to select an optimal network from said plurality of available networks;

means for enabling the processor to initiate data communication with a remote device over said optimal network via a first one of the plurality of network interfaces; and

means for enabling the processor to continue said data communication without interruption over another of said plurality of available networks via a second one of said plurality of network interfaces when said data

communication over said optimal network is terminated.

30. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to detect said plurality of available networks is invoked as part of a power-up sequence of the end user device.

31. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to detect said plurality of available networks is invoked when a task related to network communication is initiated on the end user device.

32. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to detect said plurality of available networks comprises means for enabling the processor to search for available networks in an order based on expected transfer rate.

33. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to detect said plurality of available networks comprises means for enabling the processor to search for available networks based on a type of data to be communicated.

34. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on a type of data to be communicated.

35. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on an expected bit error rate for each of said plurality of available networks.

36. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on an expected signal-to-noise ratio for each of said plurality of available networks.

37. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on an expected number of intervening network entities between the end user device and said remote device for each of said plurality of available networks.

38. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on an expected cost associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

39. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network comprises means for enabling the processor to select said optimal network based on an anticipated power consumption associated with communicating over each of said plurality of available networks.

40. The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising:  
means for enabling the processor to establish a connection with said remote device over said another of said plurality of available networks via said second one of the plurality of network interfaces prior to said termination of said data communication over said optimal network.